

STATE SENATOR • MICHAEL PRUSI • 38TH DISTRICT

Prusi Press Release

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HEALTHY FOREST BILL SENT TO GOVERNOR

Prusi bill encourages sustainability of Michigan's forest and works to strengthen logging industry

LANSING – Legislation introduced by State Senator Mike Prusi (D-Ishpeming), promoting the sustainability of Michigan's forest lands and encouraging the strength of Michigan's logging industry, passed the Senate today.

"I am pleased that my colleagues in the House and Senate realize the importance of maintaining the health and sustainability of Michigan's forests," Sen. Prusi said. "Ensuring the viability of Michigan's logging industry will promote job growth and economic stability for our local communities and their families."

State Representative Rich Brown (D-Bessemer) played a critical role in shepherding the bill through the House.

"It is vitally important for the legislature to take action to secure the future of our forest," Rep. Brown said. "Our efforts will help to ensure the sustainability of Michigan's forest land for generations to come."

Senate Bill 1023 establishes four pilot project areas no later than December 31, 2006. The pilot areas will include between 200 and 640 acres with two in the Upper and Lower Peninsulas. One area will be hardwoods and one will be softwoods. The intent of these project areas will be to demonstrate cost saving techniques and improved efficiency in forest treatment techniques while improving the overall health of the forest.

"I remain committed to promoting the strength of our forest and logging industry," Sen. Prusi said. "Our local businesses and the customers they serve rely on strong, sustainable forests to keep our economy going."

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Mike Prusi serves as Democratic Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. He represents the 38th Senate District, which includes all Upper Peninsula counties west of Luce County.